

The Green Dress

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As I began the seasonal task of converting my wardrobe from summer to fall, I came upon a green dress. This was no ordinary green dress; this dress represented a segment of my life filled with love, loss, and friendship.

The shoulders were peppered with dust, punctuating the passage of time and the unfinished burden that grief accumulates in our lives. Twenty years ago I wore this dress and a poignant memory still connects the wound between friendship and heartbreak at the place where I began unraveling.

She arrived at our house unannounced, her arms overflowing with options as she prepared to help me find my dress, a subject I had understandably neglected. Her presence alone brought life to the previously quiet house, with the perfect balance of warmth and compassion. A part of her strategy was to model each dress and in doing so, she brought lightness to a dreary occasion.

The dress was more than just a shroud to cover me. It illustrated the love that embraced me as I struggled with grief, mourning the loss of my son. Establishing a friendship that had the power to save me while interrupting my thoughts from grieving to grateful in a gentle tug of war.

She became the ointment vital to sustain one more day. Her friendship a soft place to land with a voice of reason that anchored me. With her arms outstretched she shouldered fragments of my sorrow, helping to rebuild me, piece by piece while cradling my broken heart.

Finally stepping out of the memory, I went back to complete the task, grateful for the friendship that once held me up. With the green dress back in the closet I began moving forward once again, with all the warmth and tenderness that love, heartbreak, and friendship can bring.

As I replaced the delicate summer patterns with the thicker fall fabrics, I began transporting myself to a new season, another new beginning.

Friends make our world better with the unconditional love needed to support us with the guidance we need on the capricious roads of life. Bracing you when your spirit is broken and saving you in ways you never knew possible. ≈

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